

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

April 28, 2003  
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, and Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Degginger opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately one hour to discuss one item of labor negotiations and one item of property disposition.

The Study Session resumed at 7:45 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding. She explained that an additional item of potential litigation was discussed during the Executive Session.

Mayor Marshall invited Senator Jim Horn to the table and thanked him for his work as Chair of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee. On behalf of the Council, Mrs. Marshall presented Senator Horn with a paperweight in the form of an eight-pound decorative barbell for his leadership and “heavy lifting” in the passage of a bipartisan transportation revenue package overwhelmingly supported by the legislature. Senator Horn reviewed the highlights of the \$4.1 billion transportation funding package including projects on highways of statewide significance, the replacement of four 75-year-old ferries, remodeling of several ferry terminals, and rail and freight improvements. Mayor Marshall read a commendation recognizing Senator Horn’s representation of the 41<sup>st</sup> District since 1988 and his advocacy of transportation issues.

2. Oral Communications: None.

3. Study Session

(a) Council New Initiatives

Mayor Marshall announced that John Valaas, Co-Chair of the Bellevue 50Fest Committee, recently received donations of \$35,000 for the 50Fest time line history book and \$10,000 toward the Motorama from PACCAR. Mrs. Marshall thanked PACCAR for its support.

At 7:54 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared a brief recess until 8:00 p.m., at which time Council will proceed with item (d) because it was publicly noticed for 8:00 p.m.

(d) Conditional Use Permit for Bellevue School District #405 (Sammamish High School)

Ordinance No. 5441 granting a Conditional Use Permit, with conditions, on the application of the Bellevue School District/Sammamish High School to allow for replacement of an existing auditorium with a new performing arts center and new administrative wing and entry. (Application No. 02-149719-LB)

*(City Council action is subject to the East Bellevue Community Council's approval.)*

The meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

Associate Planner Toni Pratt described the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application of Bellevue School District for improvements at Sammamish High School. The application proposes demolishing the existing auditorium (215 seats) and building a new performing arts center with 450 seats, adding a new administrative wing and entry, and completing life safety and accessibility upgrades throughout the campus. The project site is the southeast corner of Main Street and 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, which is within the boundaries of the East Bellevue Community Council's jurisdiction.

Ms. Pratt explained that the new auditorium will have the first full fly loft in the District, which will allow the vertical retraction of scenery during a production. The performing arts center will be a cultural asset available to the community for use outside of school hours. If Council approves the application, it will be forwarded to the East Bellevue Community Council for consideration on May 6.

- ☛ Deputy Mayor Degginger moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5441 approving the Bellevue School District's Conditional Use Permit application as recommended by the Hearing Examiner, amended to change the word "continue" to "conduct" for Condition I. Mr. Mosher seconded the motion.

Mr. Mosher expressed support for upgrading local school theatre facilities.

- ☛ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5441, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0.

(b) Update on Puget Sound Energy Franchise Negotiations

Nora Johnson, Transportation Assistant Director, and David Kerr, Franchise Manager, presented the proposed franchise renewal package for Puget Sound Energy's electric franchise.

Mr. Kerr noted that some priorities have been covered in several memoranda of understanding (MOUs) instead of the franchise agreement. He recalled five overall priorities identified by Council in March 2002:

1. Improve reliability and performance.
2. Establish relocation responsibilities.
3. Encourage cooperation for undergrounding program.
4. Secure City network facilities.
5. Implement vegetation management plan.

Mr. Kerr described how the franchise renewal addresses Council's priorities. A MOU includes guidelines for performance reporting and access to PSE's system-wide maps. PSE has agreed to report the average frequency and duration of outages as well as the location, cause, duration, and number of customers affected for all non-scheduled outages. PSE will provide maps to the City of facilities in specific locations as they relate to public projects. The MOU requires PSE to extend its best effort to seek exemption to the Public Disclosure Act for any maps they provide to the City. If successful in obtaining an exemption to the third party disclosure of PSE system information, the franchise will be amended to require PSE to provide the maps to the City on a system-wide basis.

Mr. Kerr explained that franchise enforcement provisions and bond and insurance requirements have been strengthened. The parties have agreed to a dispute resolution and default process, which includes a provision for limited arbitration. If either party loses two arbitrations brought against the other party, they will be responsible for paying the prevailing party's arbitration fees and costs. PSE has agreed to collaborate and coordinate with the City's Emergency Management Program.

Relocation responsibilities are addressed primarily in Section 7 of the franchise agreement and in a MOU. The MOU provides details on the relocation process and time line and protects the City against delay risks. Mr. Kerr said the agreement requires that all new PSE facilities in Bellevue are to be installed underground. In terms of City network facilities, the agreement will allow the City to attach equipment for non-commercial municipal communications to PSE poles at no cost. PSE has agreed to provide an annual vegetation management plan and to meet with the City to coordinate and implement the plan. A MOU provides detailed procedures on implementation of the plan.

Mr. Kerr proposed presenting the franchise agreement and MOUs for Council action on May 5.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Mr. Kerr said the franchise agreement focuses on ongoing requirements while the MOUs outline implementation procedures and are easier to modify if the need arises.

Mayor Marshall noted a letter from Puget Sound Energy indicating the intent to approve the franchise agreement and MOUs.

- ➡ Dr. Davidson moved to direct staff to bring the PSE electric franchise agreement and associated memoranda of understanding forward for Council action on May 5, and Mr. Degginger seconded the motion.

- The motion to direct staff to present the PSE electric franchise agreement and associated memoranda of understanding for Council action on May 5 carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Marshall thanked Mr. Kerr and PSE staff for their hard work in developing the new agreement.

(c) Regional Issues

Diane Carlson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, introduced the following Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) staff: Norman Abbott, Program Manager and Eli Cooper, Transportation Planning Director.

Mr. Abbott noted materials provided in the PSRC folder including a 2002 Regional Growth Centers Report on Bellevue. He explained that this presentation is part of the Growth Management Policy Board's effort to increase communication with jurisdictions. The GMPB held a workshop with representatives of urban centers in February 2002. This led to the creation of two reports: a Growth Monitoring Report released in August 2002 and a Centers Monitoring Report published in October 2002. This work is part of an overall update of the Vision 2020 Plan to be initiated this summer.

Mr. Abbott briefly reviewed a list of regional growth centers organized into categories such as regional center (Downtown Seattle), metropolitan center (Downtown Bellevue), and historic center (Redmond). The centers are intended to provide the backbone of the regional transportation system and to attract future growth. Mr. Abbott displayed a chart showing employment growth in 21 urban centers. He noted Bellevue's employment increased the most between 1995 and 2000. Similarly, Bellevue's housing supply grew substantially between 1990 and 2000.

In closing, Mr. Abbott said the Vision 2020 scoping process is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2004. Mayor Marshall thanked PSRC staff for their presentation.

Moving on, Utilities Director Lloyd Warren introduced an update on the Regional Water Quality Committee and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee. He requested Council direction regarding the development of interest statements pertaining to the work of these committees.

Alison Bennett, Utilities Policy Program Manager, said the MWPAAC is a group of component wastewater agencies operating sewer systems in King County. It was formed in 1959 and retained when Metro merged with King County in 1993. The MWPAAC reports to the Regional Water Quality Committee but is interested in restructuring to report directly to the King County Council in order to have a more influential voice.

Ms. Bennett noted that Dr. Davidson participates on the RWQC. The RWQC is beginning its first three-year review of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan to evaluate a number of issues including Brightwater treatment plant costs, the capacity charge, reclaimed water, combined sewer overflow (CSO) solutions, and overall cost containment strategies.

Dr. Davidson encouraged Council to develop an interest statement on these issues, many of which have long-range implications. He said the City of Seattle has posed a number of questions to be addressed in upcoming workshops.

Deputy Mayor Degginger expressed concern about Brightwater costs, overall responsibility for cost containment, and the CSO issue. Mayor Marshall said Bellevue has established reserves for ongoing infrastructure replacement while the City of Seattle periodically has problems with CSOs and is not reinvesting in its infrastructure. She is concerned that increased costs for the Brightwater plant will be passed on to new housing units. Mrs. Marshall encouraged a value engineering approach to Brightwater and other projects. Dr. Davidson noted that connection charges apply to those converting from septic tanks as well.

Mr. Warren noted a proposal from the King County Executive for a future Solid Waste Business Plan. It was recently revealed that the county landfill is not a solid waste/utilities asset but rather a County General Fund asset. As a result, the Solid Waste Fund owes the General Fund \$7 million per year for rent since 1992. Mr. Warren said King County is beginning to examine its future role with the landfill beyond 2012 and considering options to privatize the landfill's operation.

Mr. Mosher indicated that private bidding is likely to be more cost-effective than current operations. Following brief comments, Mayor Marshall noted Council consensus to develop an interest statement on King County's Solid Waste Business Plan as well.

Ms. Carlson turned to an update of the state legislative session. Lobbyists Mike Doubleday and Bob Mack reviewed the State Legislative Update provided in Council's Desk Packet, which is a revised version of the update provided on page 19 of the Regional Issues packet.

Ms. Carlson referenced the report on regional committees on page 29 of the Regional Issues packet. The Regional Policy Committee reached consensus to move ahead with Task 3 of its human services study to examine administrative and funding issues. Ms. Carlson requested Council direction about providing comments to the Regional Policy Committee and the King County Council.

Mr. Noble is in favor of moving forward with Task 3 to address the long-term governance and funding of human services. Responding to Mayor Marshall, Council indicated its continued support of the human services study.

(e) Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report

Finance Director Jan Hawn opened discussion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2003 Budget Monitoring Report. Jonathan Swift, Senior Budget Analyst, said economic recovery continues to be slow and uneven, which is reflected in fluctuations in sales tax and business and occupations (B&O) tax collections. The regional economy continues to lag behind the nation, but personal income increased approximately three percent during the first quarter for the Puget Sound region. Experts anticipate a change to modest growth in the second and third quarters.

Ms. Hawn said the first quarter began with a General Fund balance of \$1.9 million following expenditure control measures implemented by the City Manager and the Leadership Team last year. While revenues were \$3 million less than projected in 2002, expenditures were \$5 million less than budgeted. First quarter 2003 expenditures are in line with the budget. Staff projects that 84 percent of the CIP (Capital Investment Program) budget will be spent this year. Several CIP projects are under construction and significant projects are beginning this year including Lewis Creek Park development, 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Eastgate Way project, Access Downtown interchange projects, and design work for the Neighborhood Investment Strategy. Utility expenditures are in line with revenue estimates.

Ms. Hawn said slow economic recovery has been anticipated in 2003 revenue estimates. Staff will continue to look for cost savings opportunities while following expenditure control measures such as the soft hiring freeze, conservative spending constraints, and long-term expenditure control initiatives.

Mr. Mosher praised staff for an exemplary effort in managing the budget and establishing sufficient reserves. Dr. Davidson concurred and emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality services despite difficult economic times. Mr. Lee commended Deputy City Manager Ed Oberg for his previous contributions as Finance Director.

Mayor Marshall thanked staff for implementing expenditure controls without adversely affecting the services provided to citizens.

(f) Development of the 2003-2004 Human Services Needs Update

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran explained that Human Services staff produce the Human Services Needs Update every two years, which helps guide recommendations from the Human Services Commission.

Alex O'Reilly, Associate Planner, said the Human Services Needs Update is a compilation of quantitative and qualitative data from a variety of sources. The goal is to analyze health and human services trends and issues affecting the quality of life of Bellevue residents. The update is critical for the work of staff and the Human Services Commission in developing recommendations for funding. Provider agencies use the update as a planning tool and an aid in leveraging funds from other sources. Information is gathered through phone surveys, consumer surveys, community groups, faith communities surveys, focus groups, business surveys, service providers, and additional reports and web sites.

The phone survey for the 2003-2004 update has been completed and 442 residents were surveyed. The survey was provided in English and four foreign languages. Consumer surveys are shorter than the phone surveys and are distributed at food banks, public health clinics, ESL classes, City Hall, and other locations where services are provided. Ms. O'Reilly said provider agencies will participate in an online survey to be made available within the next few days. Data collection will continue through this summer, and a draft report will be provided to the Human

Services Commission in November 2003. Staff will present the full report to Council in January 2004.

Mr. Lee commended staff for their numerous community outreach activities. He encouraged an emphasis on outreach to the Asian-American community, which represents approximately 14 percent of Bellevue's population. Mr. Mosher concurred. He is pleased with the involvement of faith organizations, which often sponsor new immigrants in the community.

Ms. O'Reilly said a Chinese focus group is planned as well as a meeting with a tri-county coalition of providers serving the Asian community. An interview was recently completed with a representative of Chinese Information Services.

➡ At 9:54 p.m., Deputy Mayor Degginger moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. Mr. Creighton seconded the motion.

➡ The motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. carried by a vote of 7-0.

(g) Update on Forest Drive (Coal Creek Parkway to SE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street) Project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-128)

David Berg, Transportation Assistant Director, recalled a February update to Council on the Forest Drive project. At that time, the original project scope was more expensive than the project's budget. Staff has redesigned the project since February to meet the majority of the original scope at a reduced cost.

Nancy LaCombe, Project Manager, explained that the Forest Drive project extends from Coal Creek Parkway to SE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. Initial project objectives were to address motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. Several accidents have occurred on Forest Drive at the approach to Coal Creek Parkway.

Ms. LaCombe said project costs were estimated at \$18.75 million upon completion of the 50-percent design phase, including \$2.5 million for utility relocations. The project budget was \$8.4 million. At that time, a value engineering analysis was initiated as a quick, cost-effective way to obtain an independent review of the project using a diverse team of engineering professionals. The VE analysis identified 18 proposals, eight of which were moved forward for further evaluation. The project was divided into two portions: 1) lower portion focusing on vehicle safety and construction, and 2) upper portion focusing on vehicle speeds and bicycle/pedestrian safety.

Ms. LaCombe reviewed public involvement activities including mailers and an open house in November 2000, homeowners association meetings, and discussions with the Transportation Commission and the Pedestrian/Bicycle Citizen Advisory Committee. Project alternatives identified through the VE analysis were described to the public in January 2003 through a mailer, the City's web site, and an open house meeting on January 15. In February 2003, staff recommended immediate measures to restripe bike lanes and left-turn lanes, add a trail on the

south side of Forest Drive, and modify striping and signage near Coal Creek Parkway. Staff also recommended further investigation of the approach to Coal Creek Parkway.

Ms. LaCombe said a detailed traffic analysis was conducted by staff since February. Between 1997 and 2002, 21 accidents occurred on the downhill approach of Forest Drive to Coal Creek Parkway. Most occurred when it was raining or wet, five occurred on dry pavement, and four were rollover accidents. Thirteen of the accidents involved vehicles positioned to make a right turn at Coal Creek Parkway. Staff conducted pavement testing and developed alternatives that would not require relocation of the Olympic/BP Pipeline.

Ms. LaCombe described three alternatives:

- Alternative 1 – Continuing, not lowering, the grade from Forest Drive down to Coal Creek Parkway at 13.8 percent to allow approximately 100 feet of stopping space at the intersection. Includes a 300-foot right-turn lane. Estimated cost is \$2.7 million. Staff recommends this alternative.
- Alternative 2 – Similar to 1 but a shorter (150-foot) right-turn lane and a steeper (15 percent) grade. Estimated cost is \$1.9 million.
- Alternative 3 – Provides a 800-foot right-turn lane. Estimated cost is \$3.95 million.

Ms. LaCombe reviewed additional project elements considered by staff. Staff recommends the use of a radar sign posting the advisory vehicle speed and pavement texturing to help provide vehicle traction.

Ms. LaCombe summarized the recommended project modifications and budget. Phase 1 includes upper portion improvements to restripe bike lanes and left-turn lanes and add a trail along Forest Drive and interim lower portion improvements for pavement surfacing and signage. Phase 2 involves adding the 300-foot right-turn lane to the lower portion. This results in modified project costs estimated at \$6.06 million, including expenditures to date of \$760,000. With a project budget of \$8.4 million, the project balance is \$2.35 million.

Responding to Mayor Marshall, Ms. LaCombe said it would be possible to provide temporary asphalt texturing during Phase 1 and permanent concrete pavement texturing during Phase 2.

Ms. LaCombe reviewed the project schedule:

- Phase 1 design complete - 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2003
- Phase 2 design complete – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2004
- Phase 1 construction – 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2004
- Phase 2 environmental permitting – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2004
- Phase 2 construction – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2005.

Deputy Mayor Degginger commented on the need for improvements at this busy intersection. Mayor Marshall concurred. In response to Mrs. Marshall, Ms. LaCombe said the roadway will be accessible during construction.



- ➡ Mr. Lee moved to direct staff to proceed as recommended, and Mr. Creighton seconded the motion.

Mr. Noble noted the Transportation Commission's recommendation to approve Alternative 1.

- ➡ The motion to direct staff to proceed with Alternative 1 as recommended carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Berg said the Transportation Commission recommends reallocating the project balance of \$2.35 million to two projects:

140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Walkway (NE 40 <sup>th</sup> Street to north city limits)	\$1.00 million
NE 24 <sup>th</sup> Street (Northup Way to 130 <sup>th</sup> Avenue)	\$1.35 million.

Mr. Creighton noted the need for more time to study and discuss the reallocation of funds from the Forest Drive project. Councilmembers concurred.

Mayor Marshall asked that Council receive printed materials provided to the Transportation Commission on the project. She noted the receipt of several emails commending Ms. LaCombe's work with the community.

- (h) Resolution No. 6848 authorizing the execution of all documentation necessary to relinquish a portion of existing sidewalk easement for the conveyance of a permanent traffic camera easement at NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Laurie Gromala, Transportation Assistant Director, described the proposed relinquishment of a sidewalk easement at the Ashwood Commons development on the corner of NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The easement was granted to the City in the early 1990s and is no longer needed. Staff recommends exchanging the easement relinquishment for a permanent traffic camera easement on the building. There are currently 16 video cameras in the City's traffic system, most of which are located downtown. A camera at the proposed location will provide views of freeway operations including the I-405/SR 520 interchange and interchanges along I-405 as well as Overlake Hospital. Ms. Gromala said the City's camera system has been instrumental in facilitating traffic monitoring and control during the Access Downtown project.

- ➡ Mr. Mosher moved to approve Resolution No. 6848, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to approve Resolution No. 6848 carried by a vote of 7-0.

At 10:23 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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